Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01280 240804Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AS-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 /075 W
----------071051 240821Z /12
R 240351Z JUN 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8062
INFO AMEMBASSY HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1280

E.O. 11562: GDS
TAGS: PINT ETRD CH IT

SUBJ: FORLANI VISIT: PRC ATTITUDE TOWARD PCI

REF: HONG KONG 7226

1. SUMMARY. ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED THAT CHINESE SPOKE POSITIVELY OF ITALIAN COMMUNISTS IN TALKS WITH FONMIN FORLANI. MAJOR FOCUS OF FORLANI VISIT, HOWEVER, WAS ON COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES, WITH CHINESE RESPONDING FAVORABLY TO ITALIAN SUGGESTIONS FOR INCREASED TRADE. END SUMMARY.

2. ITALIAN EMBOFF HAS TOLD US ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY AS TERZANI'S (REFTEL). A CHINESE OFFICIAL (APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PEKING 01280 240804Z

HUANG HUA), IN CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI, REFERRED TO THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN ESSENTIALLY POSITIVE TERMS WHICH CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH THEIR ATTITUDE DURING FANFANI VISIT LAST FALL.

3. COMMENT: OUR SOURCE NOTED THAT ITALIAN POLITICAL CONFIGURATION HAD UNDERGONE A SHIFT IN THE PAST HALF

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YEAR, WITH PCI NOW IN A POSITION OF DE FACTO COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT. NEW CHINESE VIEW MIGHT BE DUE TO GREATER EVIDENCE OF PRO-WESTERN AND ANTI-SOVIET BEHAVIOR ON PART OF PCI. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT EQUALLY IMPORTANT FACTOR IS PRC'S INCREASED WILLINGNESS TO LOOK FAVORABLY ON ANY FORCE WHICH ADOPTS ANTI-SOVIET POSTURE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR STANCE ON OTHER QUESTIONS. THIS WAS SEEN IN CHINESE RESPONSE TO ZAIRE EVENTS LAST SPRING, AND IS FURTHER EVIDENCED BY RECENT INCREASE IN CONTACTS BETWEEN CHINA AND YUGOSLAVIA, ONCE THE ARCH-REVISIONIST VILLAIN BUT NOW SEEN INCREASINGLY AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO WITHSTAND SOVIET IMPERIALIST PRESSURE. END COMMENT.

4. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE REFERENCE TO THE PIC, FORLANI'S VISIT APPARENTLY HAD LITTLE POLITICAL CONTENT. BASIC AIM OF THE VISIT, ACCORDING TO EMBOFF, WAS TO STIMULATE GREATER TRADE AND INCREASED CULTURAL CONTACTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTIRES. CHINESE SHOWED THEMSELVES RESPONSIVE, PARTICULARLY ON TRADE SIDE, AND A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION FROM THE CHINESE COUNCIL FOR THE ROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE WILL VISIT ITALY LATER THIS SUMMER, WHILE SEVERAL MAJOR ITALIAN COMPANIES, INCLUDING MONTEDISON, ARE EXPECTED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO PEKING N THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS DEALS IN SUCH FIELDS AS PETROCHEMICALS, COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CONFIDENTIAL

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS) AND SHIPBUILDING. PROGRESS IS EXPECTED TO BE SLOWER ON THE CULTURAL SIDE, BUT THE PRC HAS ALREADY RESUMED PURCHASES OF ITALIAN FILMS, INCLUDING SOME WHICH WILL BE SHOWN ONLY TO SELECTED OFFICIALS AND "TECHNICAL PERSONNEL".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE PROMOTION, MINISTERIAL VISITS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: PEKING
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: FORLANI VISIT: PRC ATTITUDE TOWARD PCI
TAGS: PINT, ETRD, CH, IT, (FORLANI, ARNALDO)
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Type: TE
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